To
The Chairman
of the
Barrowford Urban District Council.

Lowes

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Return of the health of the District During the year 1897 There have been 80 deaths registered 40 males and 40 females. This gives an annual death rate of 14 per 1,000 against 13.3 per 1,000 of last year.
There were 34 deaths in children under 5 years of age and 46 in persons above that age.
The births registered were 158 - 76 males and 82 females giving an annual birth rate of 27.7 per 1,000 -
The rate of infant deaths to 1,000 births 132.
The Zymotic rate 1.4 - Death rate from Phthisis .35 - Respiratory diseases 2.2 per 1,000.
There were 3 deaths from Measles, 2 Diarrhoea, 1 Whooping Cough, 6 Heart Disease, 2 Phthisis 2 Premature Birth, 13 Debility and 5 from injury -
Of infectious diseases there were 9 cases notified

Scarlet Fever	5 cases	1 death
Typhoid Fever	2 "	1 death
Erysipelas	2 "	

I am of opinion that the two cases of Typhoid Fever were caused by the slop stones being placed in the pantry's -
I have periodically visited the mills, there is slight improvement in the closet accommodation, and also in the ventilation thereof, but I have the same complaint to make this year as I had last, namely disinfectants are not sufficiently used in them.
I have also periodically visited the Schools and the same neglect in not regularly using disinfectants in the urinals and closets exists in them also.
On the 1st of February I ordered the immediate closure of the Wesleyan School New Bridge, owing to the rapid spread of measles from the neighbouring district, this order was promptly attended to -
On Monday March 29th I recommended

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the Central Infant Board School to be closed at once on account of the Measles Epidemic - 29 being absent owing to that disease - Also because there were some children in School who had the premonitory symptoms, and one who was not convalescent. Moreover one of the teachers present was coming from an infected house - This recommendation was not carried out as the School Board considered it would be time enough to close the Schools at the end of the week* - I understand they considered the danger of spreading the disease greater during convalescence than at the early stage. I would recommend that all suspicious cases be sent home and requested to see a doctor, and all absentees visited and the true cause of their absence ascertained. I now come to what is the crying evil in our midst; to which I have previously drawn your attention; the state of the main roads, streets, and pathways. Numbers of them you cannot cross without being deluged with mud and filth - It is impossible to have a healthy township while they are kept in such a deplorable condition -

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Yours truly,
F. E. de Burgh

* Owing in a great measure to this delay I had on the 13th April to order the closure of all the other Schools